



# KOOTENAI COUNTY PROFILE

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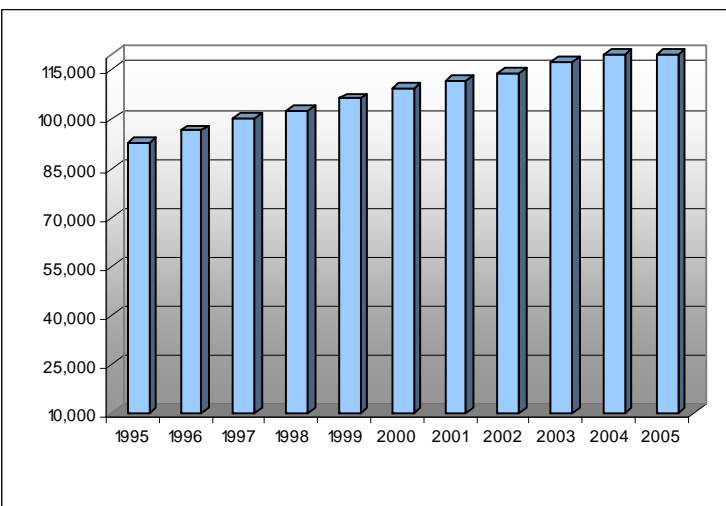
June 2006

## Population

Kootenai County experienced exceptionally strong population growth in the 1990s. From 1995 to 2005, its population grew 38 percent from 92,677 to 127,668, while Idaho's population grew 21 percent and the U.S. population grew 13 percent.

In an average year since 1990, 2,900 more people have moved into Kootenai County than moved out. Strong population growth shapes many aspects of the county's economy.

The city of Coeur d'Alene has a population of 39,000, Post Falls, 22,000; Hayden, 11,300; Rathdrum, 5,700; Dalton Gardens, 2,400; and Spirit Lake, 1,500. Kootenai County is closely tied to its Washington neighbor, Spokane County (pop. 441,000).

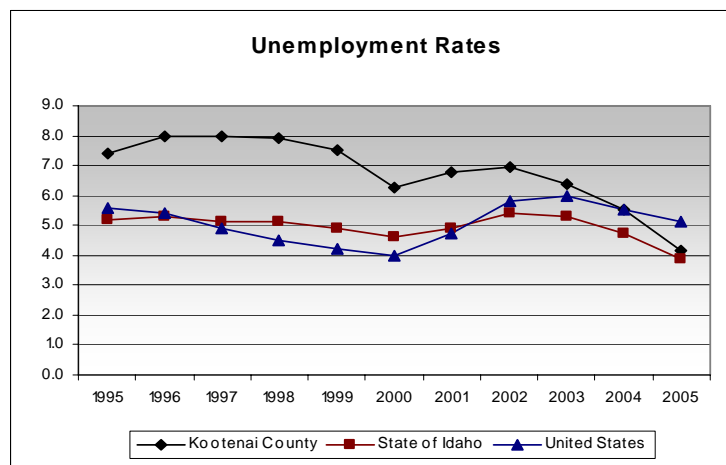


## Labor Force & Employment

From 1987 to 2000, Kootenai County's economy grew at an astounding rate as it diversified its manufacturing base, expanded its tourism sector, and added call centers. In addition, tourism and population growth fuel a construction boom and allow retail stores, health care providers, service businesses, and government agencies to expand. The pace of growth slowed after the U.S. downturn began in early 2001, but since the summer of 2003, Kootenai County's economy has been growing at its fastest pace ever.

The opening of the Coeur d'Alene Resort in 1987 led to incredible growth in tourism. The Silverwood theme park opened in 1988, and has continued to grow every year. In 1994, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe opened a casino in Worley. Today, the casino, golf course, and hotel employ 700 people. In 2005, tourist-related jobs averaged 8,400.

Other events promoting the diversification and growth of the economic base during the last decade were the relocation of many manufacturing operations and six call centers to Kootenai



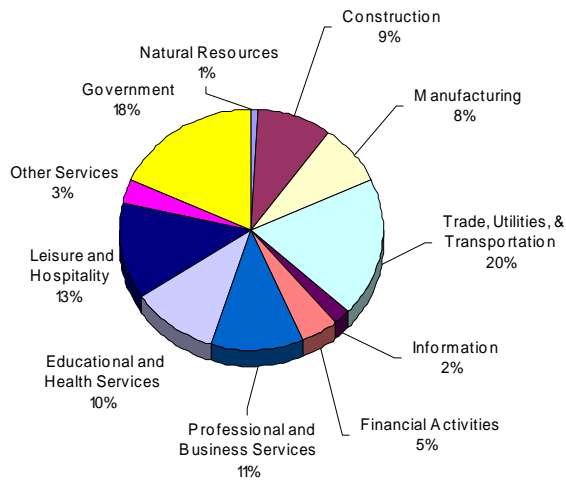
County. About 4,600 people work in the county's manufacturing businesses, while 2,200 people work at call centers. Kootenai County's low business costs, good business climate, and quality of life have attracted many new businesses. In 2005, Sysco opened a distribution center serving the food service industry that employs 180 people, Buck Knives opened a manufacturing plant that employs 270 people, and US Bank opened a customer service center that eventually will employ 500 people.

In addition to manufacturers and call centers, retail, service, tourism, and construction businesses are creating so many job opportunities that Kootenai County has received considerable national attention as a "boomtown" area.

| Labor Force                  |  | May 2005 | May 2006 |
|------------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| Civilian Labor Force         |  | 68,736   | 70,295   |
| Total Employment             |  | 65,878   | 67,738   |
| Unemployed                   |  | 2,857    | 2,557    |
| Kootenai County % Unemployed |  | 4.2      | 3.6      |
| State of Idaho % Unemployed  |  | 3.9      | 3.4      |
| U.S. % Unemployed            |  | 5.1      | 4.7      |

| Labor Force                 | 1995   | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force        | 48,376 | 50,689 | 53,895 | 55,205 | 55,809 | 56,366 | 59,193 | 60,506 | 61,592 | 63,799 | 67,656 |
| Unemployment                | 3,571  | 4,036  | 4,304  | 4,341  | 4,207  | 3,520  | 4,019  | 4,192  | 3,914  | 3,510  | 2,819  |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 7.4    | 8.0    | 8.0    | 7.9    | 7.5    | 6.2    | 6.8    | 6.9    | 6.4    | 5.5    | 4.2    |
| Employment                  | 44,805 | 46,653 | 49,591 | 50,864 | 51,602 | 52,846 | 55,174 | 56,313 | 57,678 | 60,289 | 64,836 |

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



## Major Employers

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Advanced Input Systems (manufacturer) |
| Center Partners (call centers)        |
| Coeur d'Alene Resort                  |
| Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino           |
| Flexcel (furniture manufacturer)      |
| Kootenai Medical Center               |
| North Idaho College                   |
| Verizon Northwest                     |

## Occupational Wages\*

## Starting Wage

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Assemblers                | \$7.75  |
| Bookkeepers               | \$8.75  |
| Carpenters, Journey-level | \$15.20 |
| Cashiers                  | \$6.75  |
| Clerks, General Office    | \$7.70  |
| Clerks, Retail Sales      | \$7.00  |
| Cooks, Restaurant         | \$7.70  |
| Customer Service Reps     | \$8.20  |
| Janitors                  | \$7.50  |
| Laborers, General         | \$9.25  |
| Machinists                | \$12.80 |
| Nurses, Registered        | \$17.80 |
| Secretaries, General      | \$7.90  |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy      | \$10.75 |

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

## Kootenai County Trends

Kootenai County's growing population and economic development provide many opportunities for the creation of businesses.

Between 2000 and 2005, the number of private-sector employers increased 22 percent from 3,796 to 4,610.

The *Construction* sector added the most new businesses—adding 287 new businesses, growing to 948 establishments. The number of *Professional & Business Services* businesses grew from 530 to 690; *Manufacturing*, 233 to 254; *Health Care*, 252 to 334; *Wholesale*, 218 to 227; *Leisure & Hospitality*, 363 to 394; and *Retail*, 554 to 570.

| Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004 | 1994               |               | 2003               |               | 2004               |               |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|  | Average Employment | Average Wages | Average Employment | Average Wages | Average Employment | Average Wages |
| <b>Total Covered Wages</b>   | 33,357             | \$19,628      | 45,354             | \$26,248      | 48,471             | \$27,502      |
| <b>Agriculture</b>   | 583                | \$21,168      | 457                | \$29,556      | 485                | \$31,884      |
| <b>Mining</b>  | 93                 | \$53,384      | 61                 | \$154,019     | 89                 | \$93,028      |
| <b>Construction</b>  | 3,140              | \$23,182      | 3,502              | \$28,613      | 4,469              | \$29,941      |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>   | 3,321              | \$22,756      | 4,063              | \$32,397      | 4,083              | \$33,367      |
| <b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>                            | 7,367              | \$18,913      | 8,598              | \$25,223      | 9,167              | \$26,442      |
| <b>Information</b>   | 764                | \$26,583      | 828                | \$37,515      | 945                | \$36,679      |
| <b>Financial Activities</b>  | 1,591              | \$22,408      | 2,135              | \$35,915      | 2,282              | \$37,869      |
| <b>Professional and Business Services</b>                                | 2,349              | \$22,483      | 5,326              | \$26,815      | 5,519              | \$28,682      |
| <b>Educational and Health Services</b>                                   | 2,384              | \$18,562      | 4,666              | \$24,660      | 5,047              | \$26,622      |
| <b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>   | 4,940              | \$9,088       | 6,147              | \$12,093      | 6,523              | \$12,770      |
| <b>Other Services</b>  | 845                | \$14,727      | 1,091              | \$19,195      | 1,129              | \$20,037      |
| <b>Government</b>  | 5,980              | \$23,307      | 8,480              | \$30,414      | 8,735              | \$31,741      |

| Per Capita Income      | 1995     | 1996     | 1997     | 1998     | 1999     | 2000     | 2001     | 2002     | 2003     | 2004     |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Kootenai County</b> | \$19,266 | \$20,031 | \$20,471 | \$21,547 | \$22,016 | \$23,012 | \$23,709 | \$23,752 | \$24,194 | \$25,297 |
| <b>State of Idaho</b>  | \$18,707 | \$19,426 | \$20,248 | \$20,648 | \$21,789 | \$22,786 | \$24,075 | \$25,185 | \$25,330 | \$26,877 |
| <b>United States</b>   | \$22,172 | \$23,076 | \$24,175 | \$25,334 | \$26,883 | \$27,939 | \$29,845 | \$30,575 | \$30,804 | \$31,472 |

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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